NUMB. CCXLI.

The SPECTATOR.

——— Semperque relinqui
Sola ſibi, ſemper longam incomitata videtur
Ire viam——— Virg.

Thurſday, December 6. 1711.

SPECTATOR,

HOUGH you have conſidered Virtu‘ ous Love in moſt of its Diſtreſſes, I ‘ do not remember that you have given ‘ us any Diſſertation upon the Abſence vers, or laid down any Methods how they ſupport themſelves under thoſe long Sepa which they are ſometimes forced to un I am at preſent in this unhappy Circum having parted with the beſt of Huſ who is Abroad in the Service of his y, and may not poſſibly return for ſome His warm and generous Affection while re together, with the Tenderneſs which he d to me at parting, make his Abſence al ſupportable. I think of him every moment Day, and meet him every Night in my Every thing I ſee puts me in mind of I apply my ſelf with more than ordinary ce to the Care of his Family and his E this, inſtead of relieving me, gives me many occaſions of wiſhing for his Return. the Rooms where I uſed to Converſe and not meeting him there, ſit down Chair and fall a weeping. I love to read ks he delighted in, and to Converſe with whom he eſteem'd. I viſit his Picture dred times a Day, and place my ſelf over it whole Hours together. I paſs a great my time in the Walks where I uſed to upon his Arm, and recollect in my Mind Diſcourſes which have there paſſed between look over the ſeveral Proſpects and Points which we uſed to ſurvey together, fix upon the Objects which he has made me tice of, and call to mind a thouſand Re which he has made on thoſe Occaſions. I to him by every Conveyance, and, contrary People, am always in good Humour Eaſt Wind blows, becauſe it ſeldom fails me a Letter from him. Let me you, Sir, to give me your Advice upon on, and to let me know how I may my ſelf in this my Widowhood.

I am, *SIR*,

Your moſt humble Servant,

ASTERIA.

Abſence is what the Poets call Death in Love, and has given occaſion to abundance of beautiful Complaints in thoſe Authors, who have treated of this Paſſion in Verſe. *Ovid's* Epiſtles are full of them. *Otway's Monimia* talks very tenderly upon this Subject.

——— It was not kind
To leave me, like a Turtle, here alone,
To droop and mourn the Abſence of my Mate.
When thou art from me every Place is deſart;
And I methinks am Savage and forlorn.
Thy Preſence only 'tis can make me bleſſed,
Heal my unquiet Mind, and tune my Soul.

The Conſolations of Lovers on theſe Occaſions are very extraordinary. Beſides thoſe mentioned by *Aſteria*, there are many other Motives of Comfort, which are made uſe of by abſent Lovers.

I remember in one of *Scudery's* Romances, a couple of honourable Lovers agreed at their parting to ſet aſide one half Hour in the Day to think of each other during a tedious Abſence. The Romance tells us, that they both of them punctually obſerved the time thus agreed upon; and that whatever Company or Buſineſs they were engaged in, they left it abruptly as ſoon as the Clock warned them to retire. The Romance further adds, That the Lovers expected the return of this ſtated Hour with as much Impatience, as if it had been a real Aſſignation, and enjoy'd an imaginary Happineſs that was almoſt as pleaſing to them as what they wou'd have found from a real Meeting. It was an inexpreſſible Satisfaction to theſe divided Lovers to be aſſured that each was at the ſame time employed in the ſame kind of Contemplation, and making equal Returns of Tenderneſs and Affection.

If I may be allowed to mention a more ſerious Expedient for the alleviating of Abſence, I ſhall take notice of one which I have known two Perſons practiſe, who joined Religion to that Elegance of Sentiments with which the Paſſion of Love generally inſpires its Votaries. This was, at the return of ſuch an Hour to offer up a certain Prayer for each other, which they had agreed upon before their Parting. The Husband, who is a Man that makes a Figure in the polite World, as well as in his own Family, has often told me that he could not have ſupported an Aſence of three Years without this Expedient.

In

In one of *Strada*'s Proluſions he gives an Account of a Chimerical Correſpondence between two Friends, by the Help of a certain Loadſtone, which had ſuch a Vertue in it, that if it touched two ſeveral Needles, when one of the Needles ſo touched begun to move, the other, tho' at never ſo great a diſtance, moved at the ſame Time and in the ſame Manner. He tells us, that the two Friends, being each of them poſſeſſed of one of theſe Needles, made a kind of Dial-plate, inſcribing it with the four and twenty Letters, in the ſame manner as the Hours of the Day are marked upon the ordinary Dial-plate. They then fixed one of the Needles on each of theſe Plates in ſuch manner that it could move round without Impediment, ſo as to touch any of the four and twenty Letters. Upon their Separating from one another into diſtant Countries, they agreed to withdraw themſelves punctually into their Cloſets at a certain hour of the Day, and to converſe with one another by means of this their Invention. Accordingly when they were ſome hundred Miles aſunder each of them ſhut himſelf up in his Cloſet at the time appointed, and immediately caſt his Eye upon his Dial-plate. If he had a mind to write any thing to his Friend, he directed his Needle to every Letter that formed the Words which he had occaſion for, making a little Pauſe at the end of every Word or Sentence, to avoid Confuſion. The Friend, in the mean while, ſaw his own Sympathetick Needle moving of it ſelf to every Letter which that of his Correſpondent pointed at. By this means they talked together acroſs a whole Continent, and conveyed their Thoughts to one another in an Inſtant over Cities or Mountains, Seas or Deſarts.

If Monſieur *Scudery*, or any other Writer of Romance, had introduced a Necromancer, who is generally in the Train of a Knight Errant, making a Preſent to two Lovers of a couple of theſe abovementioned Needles, the Reader would not have been a little pleaſed to have ſeen them correſponding with one another when they were guarded by Spies and Watches, or ſeparated by Caſtles and Adventures.

In the mean while, if ever this Invention ſhould be revived or put in practice, I would propoſe that upon the Lover's Dial-plate there ſhould be written not only the four and twenty Letters, but ſeveral entire Words which have always a place in paſſionate Epiſtles, as *Flames*, *Darts*, *Die*, *Languiſh*, *Abſence*, *Cupid*, *Heart*, *Eyes*, *Hang*, *Drown*, and the like. This would very much abridge the Lover's Pains in this way of writing a Letter, as it would enable him to expreſs the moſt uſeful and ſignificant Words with a ſingle Touch of the Needle.

ERRATA in laſt Tueſday'*s Paper*, *Col.* 1. *Line* 38. *for* Political *read* Polemical.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Thurſday, the 6th Day of December, will be preſented, a Comedy called, Love for Love. The part of Ben. by Mr. Dogget. Angelica by Mrs. Oldfield. Sir Sampſon Legend by Mr. Leigh. Valentine by Mr. Wilks. Scandal by Mr. Booth. Tattle by Mr. Cibber. Foreſight by Mr. Johnſon, Trapland by Mr. Norris. Jeremy by Mr. Bowen. Mrs. Foreſight by Mrs. Rogers. Mrs. Frail by Mrs. Porter. Nurſe by Mrs. Willis, and the Part of Miſs Prue by Mrs. Santlow.

*** The Annual Feaſt for the Sons of will be held at Merchant-Taylors-Hall in Thread Day being the Sixth Day of December Inſtant. Ti Mr. Huſſey's, a Haberdaſher of Hats, between the Two Mr. Richard Wright's, at the Black Perriwig in Bre ner's, at the White Hart near Charing-Croſs; Mr. C ſmith in White-Chappel; Mr. Ward's, Goldſmith Southwark; [illegible] Coffee-houſe againſt the Royal- Coffee-houſe in St. Paul's Church-yard; Brown's Coffe Court, Fleet-ſtreet; Oliver's Coffee-houſe at Weſtmi and Anderton's Coffee-houſe in Fleet-ſtreet. N. B. S vided for the Year enſuing.

The Principle and moſt Valuable Pictures ing to the late Serjeant Streeter, viz. Guido, Guercino da Rubins, Roland Savery, Steenwick, the Velvel Brueghel, L divers curious Flower Pieces of Van Thelten, Ver Brugen Looking Glaſſes finely Painted with Flowers and Or Zoon, with other high finiſh'd Pieces of his, will be ſold ion on Thurſday the 13th and Friday the 14th of this Inſt ber 1711. The Sale will begin exactly at One of the C Afternoon, at his Late Dwelling Houſe in Gerard ſtreet, Collection may be ſeen on Friday the 7th, Saturday the 8 the 10th, Tueſday the 11th and Wedneſday the 12th befo and Catalogues had Gratis at the place above Named. No lection is to be Sold for the Benefit of his Children, ſo that muſt be diſpoſed of. Conditions of Sale as uſual.

At the Lace Chamber on Ludgate-hill, kept by Parſons, is to be ſold all ſorts of Flanders Lace, having a tity of new faſhion Patterns come over this laſt Fleet: She in Flanders her ſelf ſo will ſell great Pennyworths.

The Houſe (late Mr. Clinch's) in Epſom, a Boarding School; being very large and convenient for the ſituate in an healthful Air near the Downs, where La Writing, &c. are Taught by J. Crew, A.M.

There is a very good Earl's Coach, with t neſs of ſix Horſes, all as good as new, to be ſold a very gr worth: To be ſeen at the Dolphin in Dean-ſtreet near

For SALE by the CANDLE.

This Day the 6th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon, (only Lot) 13 Hhds and 2 Tierces of excellent French new high White Wine; and 23 Pipes and 1 Hhd of excellent French Clarets, and other of the beſt Growths, deep, b freſh, &c. neat, entire Parcels, lately landed; now in a the Houſe of Meſſieurs Aldcroft and Burger, Merchants, the Bell Ale-houſe in Mincing-lane in Fenchurch-ſtreet, and taſted this Day and to Morrow from 8 to 1, and and all Thurſday till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under South-Sea Coffee houſe in Broad-ſtreet, is ſold by Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 1 s. and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle; ſuch Perſons Gallons ſhall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warr and pure from the Grape.

Incomparable Perfuming Drops for Handk and all other Linnen Cloaths, Gloves, &c. being the moſt that purpoſe in the Univerſe, for they Stain nothing that is 'em, any more than fair Water, but are the moſt Delect and Odoriferous Perfume in Nature, and good againſt all the Head and Brain: By their delicious Smell, they Co and Refreſh all the Senſes, Natural, Vital and Animal, Spirits, chear the Heart, and drive away Melancholy: The fume Rooms, Beds, Preſſes, Drawers, Boxes, &c. making ſurprizingly Fine and Odoriferous. They perfume lently, are an extraordinary Scent for the Pockets and ſo exceeding Pleaſant and Delightful, ſo admirably Curious eate, and of ſuch general Uſe, that nothing in the World with 'em. Sold only at Mr. Payn's Toyſhop at the Angel In St. Paul's Church yard near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. a Directions

To Morrow will be Publiſh'd,

The Allies and the late Miniſtry defended France, and the Friends of France, In Anſwer to a lat Intitled, The Conduct of the Allies: In which Anſw ſhewn the many Falſities of that Writer in point of his groſs Miſrepreſentations of Facts, and that there is for an Ill Peace. Printed for A. Baldwin in Warwick-L

Lately Publiſhed,

Reflections on Mr. Wall's Hiſtory of I tiſm, in ſeveral Letters to a Friend. By John Gale. In Bartholomew-cloſe, price bound 6 s. Where may be ſon and Philoſophy of Atheiſm confuted; being partly ment, and partly an Improvement of Dr. Cudworth's ſtem of the Univerſe. By Tho. Wiſe, D. D. Exeter College in Oxford.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*;
Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken
as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Build*
the *Strand*.